Background – Department of Energy (DOE) Investigation Area

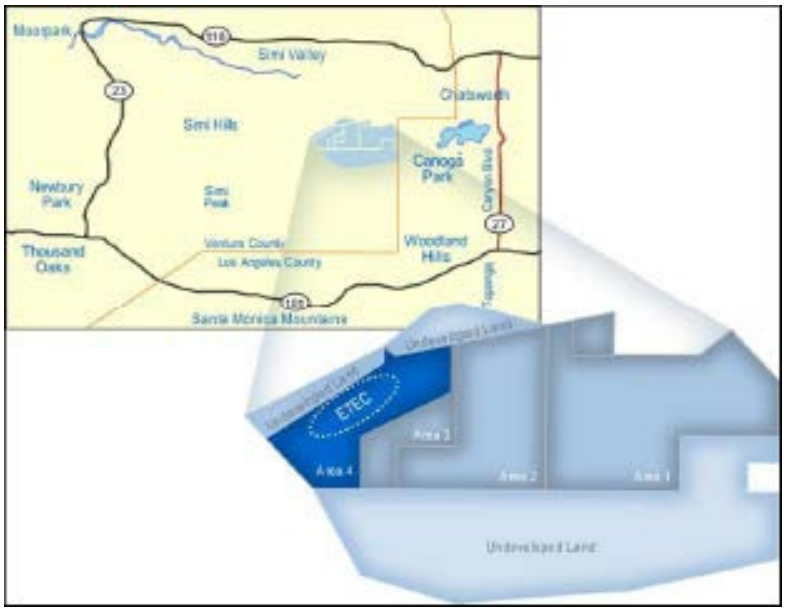
Starting in the early 1950s, for nearly 50 years, DOE sponsored nuclear and non-nuclear energy research and development projects in Area IV, including nuclear energy operations.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's radiological soil investigation in the Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone was completed in 2012.

The December 2010 Administrative Order on Consent for Remedial Action (AOC), signed by DTSC and DOE, requires three phases of soil chemical investigation. This investigation was completed in 2014. The radionuclide and chemical results of these investigations are currently being used for cleanup planning.

Chemical and radionuclide releases have occurred to soil and groundwater, and the AOC requires soil cleanup to local background or minimum detection limits, to be incorporated into DTSC-approved look up tables (LUT) for chemical and radiological cleanup levels.

DOE Area Map



Santa Susana Field Laboratory – Area IV and Northern Buffer Zone

Data summary reports were submitted by U.S. EPA (Radiological Characterization of Soils) in December 2012, and by DOE (draft Chemical Data Summary Report [CDSR]) in December 2016. The CDSR summarizes data collected in Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone to show the extent of contamination in soils that exceed Look-Up Table values. The CDSR is under review by DTSC.

DOE's Soil Treatability Studies are complete.

Cleanup Progress - DOE

Soils Characterization and Cleanup Planning

- A significant amount of soils characterization data has been evaluated for remediation planning.
- DOE's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) used the data to analyze potential environmental impacts of alternatives for cleanup activities in Area IV and the Northern Buffer Zone (NBZ). DOE presented alternative cleanup scenarios, while avoiding technical challenges and adverse environmental impacts associated with cleanup to AOC LUT values.
- DTSC's draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) used the data to evaluate environmental impacts that could result from Area IV/NBZ cleanup activities, and identified alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts.
- DTSC issued a draft Program Management Plan (PMP), which establishes the framework for investigation and cleanup decisions at SSFL.
- The draft EIS, PEIR and PMP were issued in 2017 for public review/comment, and public comments have been received.

Groundwater Characterization and Cleanup

- DOE completed its field investigation of groundwater contamination. The findings are in DOE's Preliminary Draft RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Groundwater Report. It will be finalized after DTSC comments.
- DOE implemented Groundwater Interim Measures (GWIM) at the Area IV Former Sodium Disposal Facility.
- DOE is conducting focused source area investigations in Area IV to support remediation planning.

Upcoming Milestones and Documents

- Following receipt of DTSC's comments, DOE will finalize the Soil Chemical Data Summary Report (CDSR) in 2018.
- After DTSC approval of the CDSR, the Draft Soil Remedial Action Implementation Plan (SRAIP) will be submitted for DTSC review and public comment. The SRAIP will be a formal cleanup decision document for DOE's cleanup plans.
- DOE's Corrective Measures Study for groundwater anticipated in 2018. The PEIR and PMP will be finalized in 2018.

Information and Contact

DTSC web site:
http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Santa_Susana_Field_Lab/ssfl_document_library.cfm

- ➢ Go to "DOE Area IV," then select topic of interest.

DOE SSFL web site:
http://www.etec.energy.gov/Char_Cleanup/Soil.html

DTSC Contact
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